

**THE REVISERS' ENGLISH: A SERIES
OF CRITICISMS, SHOWING THE
REVISERS' VIOLATIONS OF THE
LAWS OF THE LANGUAGE**

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The Revisers' English: A Series of Criticisms, Showing the Revisers' Violations of the Laws of the Language by G. Washington Moon

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G. WASHINGTON MOON

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THE REVISERS' ENGLISH.

RND

1898

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PREFACE.

I AM surprised to find myself, after a silence of fifteen years, again engaged in controversy on the Queen's English. I am not a lover of contention, but of peace. There was a time when I could say, "I delight in a wordy warfare with one who wields his weapon well;" but now, my joy is not in the unrest of battle, but in the restfulness of the Beautiful—the Beautiful in deed and in word.

It may be that it is my excessive love of the beautiful, which makes me so keenly sensitive to anything that mars it; and certainly it is the hope of preserving and perfecting that which is beautiful in our language that has impelled me to engage in the task of

exposing the Revisers' errors in it in the New Testament—a task from which I should have shrunk, were it not that I regard the Bible as the Temple of God's Truth, and therefore a sacred sanctuary for the shrine of the Beautiful, the defence of which is incumbent upon every man.

The mind which allows itself complacently to delight in anything below the highest standard of excellence, is thereby dwarfing its faculties; for we become assimilated to that which we worship, and are ennobled or debased by the influence of that upon which our minds dwell with satisfaction. From this circumstance arises the necessity for aiming at perfection in all things; and if language is that which pre-eminently distinguishes man from the beasts, the attainment of perfection in language is worthy of our most studious efforts. Language is the vehicle of thought; and, in the Bible, it is the vehicle of God's thoughts; therefore, if perfection in language ought to be looked for anywhere, it ought to

be looked for, and found, in the Bible. I have looked for it in our translation, and have not found it ; hence these letters.

They were originally published, in conjunction with others from some of the Revisers themselves, in a series of consecutive numbers of *Public Opinion*, and drew forth counter-criticisms from certain university professors and learned theologians who sought to defend the Revisers from the charges of error which I had brought against them. Those counter-criticisms and the replies which they elicited have, I hope, rendered the letters entertaining as well as additionally instructive ; for, as long as human nature is what it is, we cannot but be amused by the mistakes and misadventures of the wise.

G. W. M.

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THE NEW TESTAMENT REVISERS,
1870-1880.

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In addition to the foregoing there were originally Dean Alford and Bishop Wilberforce, who both, greatly to the sorrow of all, died during the Revision, and Dean Merivale, who resigned.

The Secretary to the New Testament Company was the Rev. John Troutbeck, M.A., one of the Minor Canons of Westminster Abbey.